

To: CTE Directors, Principals, Superintendents, School Counselors, CTE Instructors

From: Indiana Office of CTE and Governor's Workforce Cabinet

Date: November 11, 2020

Re: CTE Bi-Weekly Update

Next Level Programs of Study Opt-In Opportunity for 2021-2022 School Year

Next Level Programs of Study courses are being made available by the Office of CTE for schools and career centers to utilize during the 2021-2022 school year. Making these courses available for the upcoming school year will allow schools and career centers across the state to begin realizing the numerous benefits available through the new courses.

12 schools and career centers are currently piloting a Next Level Program of Study. This has generated much interest from other schools and career centers that would like to begin offering these courses next school year. While it may seem unconventional to make courses available that were not included in the 2021-2022 Course Titles and Descriptions approved yesterday by the State Board of Education, allowing schools to implement these new courses will give Indiana CTE students the opportunity to realize benefits from NLPS courses as soon as possible. The Office of CTE will continue to build out the Capstone courses and update a few of the pathways that are still being revised.

Opting into the Programs of Study courses will not be a requirement for next school year. The Programs of Study will be ready for full implementation in the 2022-2023 school year.

NLPS Resources:

- **NLPS Courses available for 2021-2022** – the full list of available courses is available [here](#). The document is sorted by cluster (advanced manufacturing, health sciences, etc.)
- **Master Pathways List** - this document, available on this [page](#), shows a side-by-side comparison of the 75 state approved Perkins V pathways with current courses vs. the Perkins V pathways with NLPS courses. The Master List will be a valuable tool to use in conjunction with the NLPS Courses Titles and Descriptions document (linked directly above) to determine which NLPS courses are included in each pathway.
- **Career Guide** - As announced in our previous update, the [Indiana CTE Career Guide](#) is now available online. The Career Guide is a valuable resource for information about Next Level Programs of Study. It also includes sections on the benefits of CTE, Work-Based Learning, Graduation Pathways, and Career Clusters. The Career Guide is designed to be used by students, parents, and school counselors, but will be helpful to anyone who is involved in CTE. The Office of CTE will be distributing printed copies of the Career Guide over the next few weeks to each Indiana CTE District. Schools and districts interested in purchasing additional print copies of the Career Guide can do so [here](#).
- **Upcoming Resources** - Later this week, we will be posting NLPS Review documents which will provide a complete overview of each pathway including course descriptions, dual credit alignment, and core competencies for each course.

Upcoming Events:

- **NLPS Webinar:** A webinar will be held next Wednesday, November 18th at 3:30 PM to provide additional information on NLPS. Counselors, principals, superintendents, etc. can learn key information about the transition to Next Level Programs of Study and determine if their district would want to begin offering NLPS courses next year. Specific topics to be covered include:
 - a. Availability of Next Level Program of Study course sequences for 21-22
 - b. Options for implementation
 - c. Advantages of opting-in early to NLPS

Sign up for the webinar [here](#) and you will receive information to join in advance of the webinar.

- **NLPS Implementation Workshops:** Office of CTE staff will be holding regional implementation workshops throughout the state after Thanksgiving. A schedule and locations will be made available in the next week. These workshops will be geared towards school principals, school counselors, and CTE directors. Attendees will gain additional knowledge about NLPS and be able to work through how the new courses can be best implemented in their district.

Transitioning to Next Level Programs of Study:

The Office of CTE encourages schools to transition to the NLPS courses as soon as possible because of the inherent benefits of the new and redesigned courses. However, schools will have the option to allow student cohorts to use any of the following options to earn concentrator status or complete a pathway.

- The Class of 2022 may use Perkins IV pathways, or opt into Perkins V pathways with either current courses or NLPS courses.
- The Class of 2023 & 2024 must use Perkins V pathways, with either current courses or NLPS courses.
- **The Class of 2025 must use Perkins V pathways with NLPS courses.**

Benefits of Implementation:

The NLPS courses were designed to provide significant benefits over current courses for Indiana's CTE system and most importantly, CTE students. NLPS benefits will be accomplished while still utilizing the two advanced course definition of a CTE Concentrator that was approved in 2018.

NLPS Student Benefits:

Increased Dual Credit and Credential Opportunities: NLPS will provide CTE students with the opportunity to earn more dual credits and postsecondary credentials (like a technical certificate (ITCC) or a certificate of graduation (VU)) while they are still in high school. A TC or CG is the technical skill equivalent to a student earning an STGEC.

Meet Grad Pathways Requirements: NLPS will help students demonstrate employability skills through WBL experiences and to possibly meet at least 4 different postsecondary competencies for graduation pathways.

Exploration & Preparation: Another critical advantage for students is that NLPS will provide enhanced career preparation for students while not eliminating opportunities to explore or change pathways. Students can obtain CTE concentrator status in 1 year by completing the NLPS concentrator courses concurrently, which allows for students to change pathways and still reach concentrator status should they decide a particular pathway they originally explored is no longer of interest.

NLPS System Benefits:

Improved Course Sequences & Structure: NLPS will help to dramatically improve the quality and consistency of CTE programming by ensuring that each CTE Concentrator has the opportunity to learn and develop the same set of skills regardless of whether the course is offered at a high school or a career center.

CTE Concentrator Status Consistency: Our goal throughout the process was making CTE Concentrators more employable and enrollable. NLPS will achieve this by ensuring students who have reached concentrator status have a clearly defined set of common skills.

Direct Alignment to Postsecondary: NLPS course are directly aligned to postsecondary CTE programs, including 12 new high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand pathways.

Common Questions:

Why now?

Transitions are always difficult, but making the change to Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) sooner is in the best interests of students across the state. There are other state and federal level policies that necessitate such a change as quickly as possible. The transition from Perkins IV to Perkins V and the federal definition of a CTE Concentrator is one such policy. Included in that is the fact that CTE Concentrators can be utilized for Graduation Pathways, which makes it highly problematic that CTE concentrators currently earn a credit range of 4 to 12 credits despite being enrolled in the same courses.

Funding

Funding will not change, it will be determined in the same way that it is currently.

NLPS will utilize the current CTE funding system and use of the NLPS courses will not lead to a reduction in CTE funding if students are enrolled in the three concentrator courses (Principles, Concentrator A, and Concentrator B). As an example, if a school is offering a high value Level I course for 3 credits each semester currently, you will still receive the same amount of funding by offering the 3 smaller courses for 1 credit each per semester.

As in previous years, any change in funding level would be due to the process used by the Department of Workforce Development to determine CIP/SOC crosswalks and the department's flame rating methodology.

Scheduling CTE for 2020 – 2021 School Year

Our office has received several questions and concerns about scheduling NLPS courses for next school year. We recognize that some of you have already published course titles and descriptions and identified master schedules for the upcoming school year. If you decide to opt-in to NLPS this year, it is not necessary to make any changes to materials distributed by your local district, including master schedules and course catalogs. The transition to NLPS courses will be handled through entry into InTERS. Additional scheduling considerations will be covered in the upcoming webinar and implementation workshops.

Relevant Information from Previous Updates:

2020-2021 CTE Awards for Excellence:

The Indiana CTE Awards for Excellence program highlights the outstanding achievements of secondary and postsecondary CTE students, programs and partnerships from around the state that exemplify the ideal qualities of Career and Technical Education. The Indiana Office of Career and Technical Education and the Indiana Governor's Workforce Cabinet invite each secondary and postsecondary Perkins recipient to submit nominations on behalf of their CTE District or postsecondary institution. General Information Letters for secondary and postsecondary are now posted on the [Indiana Office of CTE Website](#). Links to the nomination forms for each award category are embedded in the appropriate informational letter. **The deadline to submit nominations has been moved back to December 15.**

The CTE Awards for Excellence Recipients will be announced in February 2021 as a part of National CTE Month. A decision is still pending whether the recognition ceremony will be held in-person or if it will need to be a virtual event.